

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04836 301143Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9369

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4836

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP-CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON

1. OVER THE WEEKEND I SAW THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHO TOLD ME THAT HMG HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON LATER THIS YEAR--PROBABLY TO BE ARRANGED FOR SEPTEMBER. NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT IT OFFICIALLY AS YET, AND HE ASKED THAT WE HOLD THIS INFORMATION CLOSELY UNTIL IT IS ANNOUNCED. HE SAID THAT CARAMANLIS HAD BEEN ANGLING FOR SUCH AN INVITATION FOR SOME WEEKS--PRESUMABLY TO COMPLEMENT HIS EARLIER OFFICIAL VISITS TO GERMANY AND FRANCE AND IN CONNECTION WITH GREECE'S APPLICATION TO JOIN THE EEC. THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF NEWSPAPER "RUMORS" LATELY THAT CARAMANLIS MIGHT VISIT ENGLAND--ALL "SOURCED" TO CARAMANLIS' OFFICE, ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR. THESE WERE EVIDENTLY TRIAL BALLOONS AND THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VERY LITTLE NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION IN GREECE TO THE IDEA OF CARAMANLIS MAKING SUCH A TRIP.

2. COMMENT: THERE HAS NOT BEEN THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION THUS FAR THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HOWEVER, IF THINGS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE SMOOTHLY, I WOULD THINK HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING SUCH A TRIP, PERHAPS SOME TIME IN 1976. AT SOME POINT I THINK WE SHOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT ALTHOUGH
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I BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO DO SO NOW. WHILE WE WANT

TO MAINTAIN A STANCE OF BEING GENERALLY HELPFUL AND
SUPPORTIVE TO CARAMANLIS AND GREECE, IT WOULD WEAKEN OUR
POSITION WITH THEM IF WE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE
RUNNING AFTER THEM AT THIS POINT. AS OF NOW, I THINK
THIS WOULD BE SUITABLE SUBJECT FOR THE SECRETARY
TO TAKE UP IN PASSING IF AND WHEN HE HAS A
BILATERAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. I WILL MAKE A
CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME AND SUBMIT
MY RECOMMENDATION ON THIS POINT.
KUBISCH

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